

# Alabama at War:

## Conflict between the South and the North

Activate prior knowledge -  
What is a conflict?  
What conflicts have you had?



(Above) In 1861, West Virginia was a part of Virginia. The people in that region remained loyal to the Union and broke away from Virginia. In 1863 West Virginia was admitted to the Union as a separate state.

① About the time Alabama became a state in 1819, the differences between the southern and northern states began to increase. The South depended upon agriculture, while manufacturing and commerce were important to the North. Most of the issues between the North and the South involved politics and slavery. Their differences were called sectionalism.

② Slavery was legal in all the colonies at the beginning of the American Revolution. But within a decade after the Revolution ended in 1783, northern states had abolished slavery. Slavery was at odds with the spirit of democracy and the ideal of personal freedom expressed in the U.S. Constitution.

③ Unlike southern commercial agriculture, commerce and manufacturing were based on wages. Free workers received money for their labor, even though they were often paid very little. In the southern states, planters believed that only slavery could provide enough labor to make agriculture profitable. They did not believe a wage system would work. Those who opposed slavery were called abolitionists. They organized societies in New England and the Midwest. Ministers were especially active in opposing slavery.

④ The tariff, a tax on European goods shipped into the United States, was another sectional issue. Southerners opposed the tariff because they feared it would raise the cost of imported goods. They also worried